DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Division of Environmental Health Services receives 2013 California State Association of Counties Challenge Award

Each year, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) recognizes counties that have developed and implemented innovative and cost-efficient programs to better serve their citizens. The County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) recently received the prestigious 2013 CSAC Challenge Award for their West Nile Virus Aerial Surveillance Collaboration.

Since 2004, DEHS's Mosquito and Vector Control Program (MVCP) has collaborated with the County of San Bernardino Sheriff's Department Aviation Division in utilizing aerial surveillance to identify unmaintained swimming pools, or "green pools" in residential neighborhoods. This allows MVCP technicians to inspect and abate mosquito breeding hazards in previously unknown locations. Since the Aviation Division included the green pool identification during their routine patrols, no additional cost was incurred by the Aviation Division or MVCP for the services and information provided.

In 2012, West Nile Virus (WNV), which is transmitted by mosquitoes, set record breaking highs with over 5,000 human cases reported nationwide. California reported the second-highest number of human cases of any state, including 32 in San Bernardino County. In 2012, the Sheriff's Aviation Division identified 289 of the approximately 440 green pools addressed by MVCP. Just one unmaintained residential pool has the potential to produce millions of mosquitoes per week. MVCP prevented the potential production of hundreds of millions of mosquitoes per week, thus greatly reducing the potential prevalence of WNV in San Bernardino County.

DEHS takes pride in being recognized for its efforts in protecting San Bernardino County residents and visitors from West Nile Virus.

For more information about DEHS's MVCP or other Environmental Health services programs, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs.

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